

NEAL, NORMA AND RONALD

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Following on from the search for additional transposable names of the GARY GRAY and EDNA DEAN type (see "A Checklist of Transposable People" in the Aug 1998 Word Ways), we decided to further investigate the most fruitful combinations at the four-, five- and six-letter levels. In the process, several new transposable names came to light (these are asterisked below). Note that examples where the first and last names are identical are also included.

The main reference used is the U.S. PhoneDisc (Jun 1995 edition). Likely misprints such as LNAE, NOMRA and ARONLD have been omitted.

AELN

This proved the best four-letter set, narrowly ahead of ADEN which actually has more potential transposals.

First Names: Alen, Anel, Elan, Elna, Enal, Lane, Lean, Lena, Neal, Nela

Surnames: Alen, Alne, Ealn?, Elan, Enal, Lane, Lean, Lena, Nael, Nale, Neal, Nela

Full Names Found: Elan Neal*, Lane Lane, Lane Neal*, Lena Lane, Lena Lean, Lena Neal, Neal Alen*, Neal Lane, Neal Neal (130 potential)

AMNOR

Easily the best five-letter set. Probable misprints not listed here include NOMRA (Norma?), AROMN (Armon?), MROAN (Moran?), ROAMN (Roman?) and ROMNA (Roman?).

First Names: Armon, Arnorn, Manor, Marno, Maron, Moran, Morna, Norma, Orman, Ramon, Roman

Surnames: Amorn, Amron, Armon, Manor, Manro, Marno, Maron, Moarn, Monar, Moran, Morna, Namor, Narom, Nomar, Noram, Norma, Omran, Orman, Ramon, Roman

Full Names: Moran Moran, Norma Moran, Norma Orman*, Norma Roman, Ramon Moran, Ramon Ramon, Ramon Roman, Roman Ramon*, Roman Roman (220 potential)

ADLNOR

This is by far the most transposable name-set of all, boosted considerably by the common names ARNOLD, ROLAND and RONALD. Probable misprints omitted here are ARONLD (Arnold?), ROALND (Roland?) and ROLADN (Roland?).

First Names: Arldon, Arlond, Arnold, Darlon, Dorlan, Dornal, Landor, Lardon, Larond, Lonard, Londra, Lorand, Narold, Nordal, Orland, Ornald?, Raldon, Randol, Ranold, Roland, Roldan, Ronald, Rondal

Surnames: Andlor, Androl, Ardoln, Arnold, Darlon, Dorlan, Dornal, Ladron, Landor, Landro, Lanord, Lardon, Larond, Lonard, Londar, Londra, Lorand, Lordan, Nordal, Orland, Raldon, Randlo, Randol, Ranold, Rodlan, Roland, Roldan, Ronald, Rondal

Full Names: Arnold Arnold, Arnold Roland, Lonard Arnold*, Roland Arnold, Roland Roland, Roldan Roldan, Ronald Arnold, Ronald Landor*, Ronald Orland*, Ronald Randol*, Ronald Roland, Ronald Roldan*, Rondal Roland* (667 potential)

If records for other countries were scoured, even more full-name transposals would surely be found for these letters. Are there somewhere men called ARNOLD or ROLAND with the surnames LANDOR, ORLAND and RANDOL? Is there an ARNOLD ROLDAN or an ORLAND anything? Step forward, anyone surnamed LONARD, LORAND or NORDAL if your first name is ARNOLD, ROLAND, RONALD, or some other combination.

Perhaps Word Ways readers in Britain, Canada or Australia can find additional ADLNOR transposals. If so, please let us know!